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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4034

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Kessler, DeBolt, Kenney, Ericksen, Grant, Springer, Santos, Ross, Morris, Conway, Moeller, Schual-Berke, Lantz, Crouse, Flannigan, Alexander, Rolfes, Kristiansen, Lias, Smith, Barlow, Priest, Kelley, Ericks, Kagi, Blake, Hurst, Pearson, McIntire, Loomis, Roach, Skinner, Haler, Linville, Haigh, Appleton, Quall, Wood, Armstrong, McCune, Walsh, Bailey, Hankins, Warnick, Herrera, Eddy, Dunshee, Condotta, Hinkle, O'Brien, Schindler, Anderson, Kretz, Ahern, Rodne, Sump, Dunn, Takko, Hudgins, Wallace, Jarrett, Chandler, Miloscia, Orcutt, and Upthegrove

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE  
5            GREGOIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
8            represent and petition as follows:

9            WHEREAS, Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, and facing a  
10           major round of layoffs consequently, the Boeing company and the state's  
11           congressional delegation proposed that the United States Air Force  
12           lease 100 of the Boeing company's KC-767 advanced tankers; and

13           WHEREAS, Efforts to halt the procurement of Boeing-made planes for  
14           the United States Air Force would prove successful and open up the  
15           contract to further bidding from foreign competitors; and

16           WHEREAS, The United States Air Force recently announced its choice  
17           to supply the new tankers as the Toulouse, France-based Airbus company,  
18           rather than the Everett, Washington-based Boeing facility; and

19           WHEREAS, The Boeing company has a long and storied history of

1 building the world's greatest commercial and military aircraft,  
2 including nearly 2,000 tankers, in stark contrast to Airbus which has  
3 no experience building tankers; and

4 WHEREAS, At a time of looming national recession, the \$35 billion  
5 contract, which could ultimately be worth \$100 billion over 30 years,  
6 for aerial refueling tankers has already led to a sharp decline in  
7 share price for the American company, and an increase in stock price  
8 for the foreign competitor; and

9 WHEREAS, We, your Memorialists, firmly believe that in order to  
10 protect our national security and America's military strength in the  
11 world, it is right and justified to invest in our American engineers,  
12 our manufacturing industry, and our military, rather than rely on that  
13 of a foreign government that may or may not agree with our mission in  
14 the world and could undermine it by withholding needed supplies and  
15 machinery; and

16 WHEREAS, In the past seven years the United States economy has lost  
17 over 3 million manufacturing jobs, 5 million Americans have lost their  
18 health insurance, and 4 million, including some of our nation's  
19 veterans, have entered into poverty, and it is estimated that millions  
20 of more professional jobs could be outsourced to other countries within  
21 the next decade; and

22 WHEREAS, Much of the infrastructure and many of the skilled  
23 laborers and engineers that would be needed to build parts for the new  
24 tanker in Mobile, Alabama, do not yet exist, as opposed to the facility  
25 in Everett, Washington, which is ready, willing, and able to build the  
26 American-made tankers immediately; and

27 WHEREAS, The awarding of this multibillion dollar contract, to be  
28 paid by American taxpayers to Airbus' parent company, the European  
29 Aeronautic Defence and Space company, could ultimately mean the loss of  
30 thousands of local jobs and thousands more statewide and nationwide at  
31 a time when such highly skilled and well-paying jobs are greatly needed  
32 to spur economic growth and thwart any recessionary trends;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
34 States Congress take immediate action in the 110th Congress to:

35 (1) Halt the procurement of foreign-made tankers to be used by the  
36 United States Air Force;

37 (2) Conduct a congressional inquiry and reconsider its decision;  
38 and

1           (3) Reconsider the awarding of this contract in the name of  
2 national and economic security.

3           BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
4 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
5 States, the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of  
6 Washington, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
7 the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
8 State of Washington.

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